Periscope

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1. A Contribution to the Study of Secondary Descending Degeneration of the Posterior Columns of the Spinal Cord. W. Page May.
2. Homologies of the Rolandic Region. Alfred W. Campbell.
3. Some Aspects of Alcoholism. A. Hill Buchan.

1. *A Contribution to the Study of Secondary Descending Degeneration of the Posterior Columns of the Spinal Cord.*—The author advances arguments to show his objection to the view formerly held of the structure of the posterior columns of the spinal cord, that were supposed to possess merely nerve fibers which, when they underwent secondary degeneration, always did so in an ascending direction. He describes a set of fibers in the postero-external columns occupying the comma area and the immediate vicinity of the inner margin of the posterior horns; and fibers more mesially in proximity to the postero-median septum. There is also a well-marked tract, wedge-shaped in section lying near the middle line in the columns of Goll throughout the cervical region. This tract consists of short, intermediate and long fibers. As a result of lesions in these areas, secondary descending degenerations occur later in their fibers. But, although the above-mentioned fibers undergo secondary degeneration downwards, there is merely at present a strong presumption that they convey impulses downwards. As for their function, it may be that they serve to couple up movements of the eyes, or movements which have their centers in the mid-brain, with movements of the hands and lower extremities.

2. *Homologies of the Rolandic Region.*—In his paper considering the morphological equivalent of the fissue of Rolando in the lower mammalian brain, the author emphasized the fact that in man and the man-like ape the floor of this fissure forms a sharp dividing line between two territories bearing utterly dissimilar types of cortex, namely, the pre-central and post-central areas. On examinations in serial sections of the nerve cell and nerve fiber architecture of the cortex of the dog and the cat he discovered types closely resembling the pre-central and post-central types of the primate brain. The fibers bearing these types were not divided by the sulcus cruciatus, but by two distinct sulci, one dorsal, shallow and insignificant looking, called the "compensatory state," the other lateral, prominent, and well-known as the "coronal sulcus." The combination of these two is the forerunner of the fissure of Rolando, and so he renounces thecommon belief that the sulcus cruciatus is its antecedent. Giving further historical reasons in support of his objection, he states that the fissure of Rolando acts as a dividing line between motor and sensory cortex. And, if we accept the sulcus cruciatus as the homologue of the fissure of Rolando, the anatomical and physiological demands are not satisfied, as the sulcus cruciatus is deposited in the midst of the motor area, and both of its walls are clothed by one type of cortex. A sulcus in the primate brain interchangeable with the sulcus cruciatus he finds on the oval or paracentral lobule. It is immediately below and in front of the upper extremity of the fissure of Rolando. This fissuret is rarely the same in appearance in any two brains, but it is most commonly found as an isolated, shallow, vertical or oblique furrow.

3. *Some Aspects of Alcoholism.*—The author presents a statistical study of the records of cases of alcoholism in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. The total number of cases of delirium tremens considered was

230, over a period embracing about five years, of this number 209 being men and 21 women. The average age of the patients for both sexes was 39 years. And as to the duration of alcoholism previous to an attack, in men the percentage was 12 years, in women 10 years. The majority of the patients had at least a week's heavy drinking before the attack commenced. The author states that his records afford sufficient evidence to disprove the general view that abstinence after a drinking bout is the cause or an essential factor in the production of an attack. As to temperature, even a moderate degree of pyrexia was not the rule in the cases he studied. And he was also struck with the comparative rarity of acute symptoms of gastro-intestinal disturbance. As regards hallucinations, his records do not bear out the generally conceded idea the smaller the size of the animals seen the worse is the prognosis for the patient. The prognosis of moderately severe delirium tremens is usually good; 16 cases proved fatal out of a total of 230, or 6.97 per cent.

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ARCHIV. FUER PSYCHIATRIE UND NERVENKRANKHEITEN

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16. The Central Gray in Complete Atrophy of the Optic Nerve. MOELI.
17. A Contribution to the Study of Finer Brain Alterations Following Injury to the Skull. M. DINKLER.
18. The Delimitation of Chronic Alcoholic Paranoia. RAECKE.
19. Mental Disturbances in Arteriosclerosis and Their Relation to the Mental Diseases of Old Age. BUCHHOLZ.
20. History and Critique of the So-Called Psychic Compulsive States. (Conclusion.) WOLFGANG WARDA.
21. The Theory of Cortical Vision. ERWIN NIESSL V. MAYENDORF.
22. Contribution to the Study of Korsakoff's Psychosis, with Special Attention to the Pathological Anatomy. GASTON WEHRUNG.
23. Circumscribed Microgyric Formations on the Cerebral Surface and Their Relation to Porencephalus. MILTIADES OECONOMAKIS.
24. Medico-Legal Examination of Sailors. E. MEYER.
25. A Contribution to the Paranoia Question. SIEFERT.
26. The Relation Between Imbecility and Deaf Mutism. TREITEL.
27. Hydranencephalic Twins. SPIELMEYER.
28. Contribution to the Knowledge of Epilepsy. J. FINCKH.

16. *Atrophy of Optic Nerve.*—In this communication Moeli describes his findings in the gray substance of the third ventricle in a case of total atrophy of the optic nerve. He found a partial disappearance of fibers in the most ventral portion of the wall of the ventricle, and after a careful review of the work done on this anatomical point, he concludes from his own observation that a tract of fibers may be seen coming from the thalamic region and associating itself with the optic tract, which is particularly apparent when the fibers of the optic nerve are atrophied. This tract has nothing to do with that portion of the optic tract related to the hemisphere described by v. Gudden. The minute anatomical details in this paper do not permit review.

17. *Brain Alterations Following Injury.*—Dinkler calls attention to the gradual change in opinion regarding the pathological anatomy of conditions following trauma. He reports two cases with the anatomical findings in which a distinct mental disturbance supervened on a head trauma. A severe mental disturbance following immediately after a relatively slight head injury showed in the first case a high degree of alteration of the vessels of the brain, associated with hemorrhage, softening and cavity formation, with antemortem intravascular bacterial growth, but without